



**JULIE
DZEROWICZ**
Member of Parliament
Davenport

GUARANTEED BASIC INCOME BILL C-273

JUNE 2021

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

Davenport friends and neighbours: amis et voisins:

Earlier this year, I introduced Private Member's **Bill C-273, an act to establish a national strategy for guaranteed basic income in Canada**. It is the first time a bill on guaranteed basic income has been introduced in Canada at the federal level, and I want to tell you why I feel this bill is crucial and why now is the right time to consider this model.

In a world of work that is changing faster than ever before, where more people move from job to job, where both blue collar and white collar jobs are threatened by automation and artificial intelligence, and where the future of work is unpredictable and ever-changing, **we are in need of a more flexible and agile social welfare system**. The foundation of our current system was created in the 1970s—today, Canada needs a new foundation, one that will better support the needs of Canadian workers in the 21st century.

And in a world of increasing income inequality and unaffordability, we need a foundational model that will provide stability for all Canadians. **Guaranteed basic income could be that model and serve as the cornerstone of Canada's innovation and economic growth strategy**. Canadians shouldn't be worrying about how to eat and cover basic living costs, instead, we should be putting our energies towards finding better jobs, retraining, upskilling, or starting a business. We should be finding the best way to use our talents and ambitions.

What will the bill do if passed? **If passed this bill would enable a framework for implementation pilots between a Canadian province and/or territory and the federal government**. Enough pilots around the world have proven that the basic income model works. What is missing are implementation pilots of basic income programs at a large scale—across bigger populations and over longer time periods.

Since this is a private member's bill, I cannot commit federal government funding. Any costs of the program would have to be negotiated between the provinces/territories and the federal government. My bill also purposely does not define the guaranteed basic income program—there are many models to consider, and I believe it is important for the provinces/territories to design a model that best serves the needs of their populations.

The operational design is critically important in any basic income program. Ron Hikel, Director, Manitoba Basic Annual Income said this best when he wrote—any basic income program would need to not only provide sufficient income

but be designed to address the variability of income; encourage work; minimize fraud; and reduce public costs overall.

There are **three key myths** that are often raised whenever a basic income model is proposed: it will encourage people to stay at home and not work, social programs that are helpful will be eliminated, and it will cost too much.

The hundreds of basic income pilots around the world have proven that it does not discourage people from working. Indeed, it leads more to work, to find better jobs and to stay in their jobs longer. In terms of programs, the framework of Bill C-273 would work with existing social supports and I believe that all future pilots should adopt the principle of "everyone is better off". As for cost, kindly see the Basic Income section of my website for more information on this—the **bottom line is that we are currently spending hundreds of billions of dollars each year while inequality grows, poverty continues and those most in need are too frequently missed**. The real question needs to be—what will the cost be of not properly supporting all Canadians and preparing our system for the world of change we face.

The pandemic has put a spotlight on our current social safety net, which was already struggling to support Canadians. It's clear the way we've always done things isn't working. The time for band-aid solutions is over. **We must stop tinkering around the margins of our social safety net and look to new models that will better support Canadians in the challenging future before us**.

To read more, visit the Basic Income section of my website; and please let me know what you think (see other side for options).

As always, it is an honour and privilege to serve you Davenport.

Julie Dzerowicz

Member of Parliament, Davenport



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING—SUPPORT FOR BILL C-273



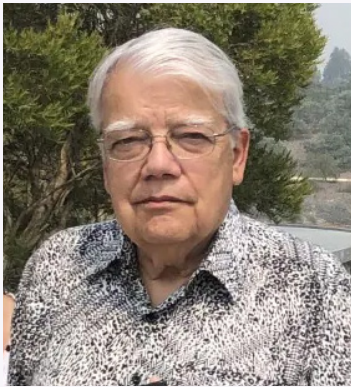
Evelyn Forget, Author, Basic Income for Canadians

“Even before the pandemic, the various levels of government in Canada spent tremendous amounts of money to send cash to Canadian families in an effort to reduce poverty. The PBO has just demonstrated that if we spent that same amount of money a little bit better by consolidating these cash transfers into a basic income, we could reduce the poverty rate by 49% with no new taxes, no increase in tax rates and no cuts to public services. The task is not simple, but we owe it to ourselves—to our families and neighbours and friends—to think carefully about how we might deliver a basic income.”



The Hon. Hugh Segal, former Ontario Senator

“The inspired part of C-273, is that it mandates the Minister of Finance to negotiate with the provinces on a national strategy to implement a national Basic Income for the ten percent of Canadian residents who now live beneath the poverty line. It leaves the design of the Basic Income benefit and the costs open to practical negotiation directed by the Minister of Finance around affordability and positive economic impact. It is a very bright way to address the poverty issue, once and for all!”



Ron Hikel, Director, Manitoba Basic Annual Income (Mincome) & Pamela Divinsky

“Government has been the prime player in supporting us through the dramatic disruption in our economic machinery. If government is the entity that prevents economic collapse, does it not make sense to test an approach, under real-life conditions, that bolsters the individual responsibility that we believe is the foundation of a healthy social fabric and prosperous economy? If we want to really understand how a community of confident self-interested individuals can create a viable, healthy economy for all, then why wouldn’t we test a program designed to create that reality?”



Sheila Regehr, Chair, Basic Income Canada Network

“This bill takes the building blocks of better income security for all Canadians—the experience, evidence, expertise and know-how we possess—and puts the gears in motion to make it happen.”



Floyd Marinescu, Exec. Director, UBI Works

“In this period of rapid disruption of work and declining social mobility, basic income defends equality of opportunity and unlocks our ability to take risks: a key factor for improving Canada’s innovation and labour market productivity. Basic Income could create 300,000-600,000 jobs and add \$80B/yr to Canada’s GDP while ensuring we have abolished working poverty.”

To keep up-to-date on Bill C-273 please visit my website juliedzerowicz.ca and click on “Basic Income”

Share Your Thoughts:

Your voice matters. Please let me know what your thoughts are on guaranteed basic income or on Bill C-273.



Send me an email to: julie.dzerowicz@parl.gc.ca



Send me a letter. No postage is required when mailing your MP



Fill out an online form: bit.ly/BasicIncomeDavenport

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TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK

Icon sources: Adrien Coquet, Salvia Santos and unlimicon from the Noun Project